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TO

Provide for the holding of Winter Assizes in Ireland.

A.D. 1876.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the holding of Winter Assizes in Ireland, in order, among other matters, to make provision for the more speedy trial than what now exists of prisoners charged with offences which cannot be tried at Quarter Sessions:

Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. In the month of *December* in every year a Winter Assizes shall be held in one county at least in each Province in Ireland.

2. The Lord Lieutenant, by and with the advice of Her Majesty's Privy Council in Ireland, shall, in the month of *November* in each year, make an order fixing in what county in each Province in Ireland the Winter Assizes shall be held that year, and such order shall specify whether such Winter Assizes shall be held both for criminal and civil business or for criminal business alone.

3. For the purpose of the trial at such Winter Assizes of prisoners in custody in a county other than the county in which the Winter Assizes shall be appointed to be held, the Lord Lieutenant may, with the advice of Her Majesty's Privy Council in Ireland, from time to time provide in such manner and subject to such regulations as to the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council may seem meet, for all or any of the following matters:

(1.) For uniting any county in the province in which a Winter Assizes shall be appointed to be held to the county in which the Winter Assizes shall be held for the purposes of such Winter Assizes;

(2.) For the attendance of sheriffs, officers, jurors, and persons, the use of any prison, the removal of prisoners, the alteration of any commissions, writs, precepts, indictments,

[Bill 290.]

A Winter Assizes to be held each year in each Province in Ireland.

The Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council of Ireland to fix in what county the Winter Assizes shall be held in each year.

For the purposes of such trials at a Winter Assizes Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council of Ireland to have power to unite counties, and to make regulations for the trial of prisoners in such united counties.

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recognizances, proceedings, and documents, the transmission of recognizances, and the expenses of prosecutors and witnesses, and of maintaining and removing prisoners, so far as may seem to the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council necessary for carrying into effect any Order under this Act; and

- (3.) For any matters which appear to the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council to be necessary or proper for carrying into effect any order under this Act.

Effect of orders made by the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council of Ireland.

4. Any Order by the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council pur- 10
porting to be made in pursuance of this Act shall be deemed to be within the powers of this Act, and shall while it is in force have effect as if it were enacted in this Act, and for all the purposes of the holding of the Winter Assizes the counties united by the order shall, subject to the provisions of the order, be deemed to be 15
one county, and the Winter Assizes held for such united county shall be deemed to be held in or for each of the constituent counties.

Such orders may be varied and altered, &c.

5. The Lord Lieutenant may from time to time, with the advice of Her Majesty's Privy Council in Ireland, revoke, alter, or add to 20
any order made in pursuance of this Act: and may appoint the Winter Assizes to be held in different counties in each Province in different years; and, if deemed advisable, may appoint a Winter Assizes to be held in more than one county in each Province in any one year: and any Winter Assizes ordered to be held in December 25
in any year may be adjourned to, or continued to be held in the January next following without any further order.

Such orders to be published in Dublin Gazette and laid before Parliament.

6. Every order made in pursuance of this Act shall be published in the Dublin Gazette and laid before both Houses of Parliament within one month after it is made, if Parliament is then sitting, 30
and if not, within one month after the then next meeting of Parliament.

Title of the Act.

7. This Act may be cited for all purposes as "The Winter Assizes (Ireland) Act, 1876."

Winter Assizes (Ireland).

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BILL

To provide for the holding of Winter Assizes in Ireland.

(Prepared and brought in by
Sir Robert Lydell and Mr. Stansfeld.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
7 August 1870.

[PUBLISHED]

Trincher 1 oz.